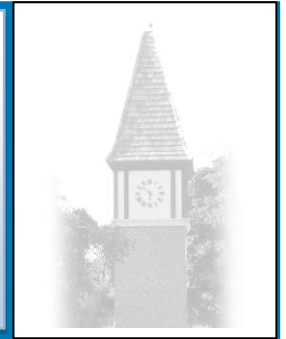


Neighborhood Watch Newsletter



Volume 16 Issue 4

July – August 2008

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WI-Fi Security

Courtesy of Federal Bureau of Investigations

Imagine that you are at the airport waiting for your flight. With time to kill, you're thinking of connecting your laptop to the airport's Wi-Fi to check your office email...do some personal banking...or shop for a gift for your spouse. Odds are there's a hacker nearby, with a laptop, attempting to "eavesdrop" on your computer to obtain personal data that will provide access to your money or even to your company's sensitive information.

How do hackers grab your personal data out of thin air? One of the most common types of attack is this: a bogus but legitimate-looking Wi-Fi network with a strong signal is strategically set up in a known hot spot...and the hacker waits for nearby laptops to connect to it. At that point, your computer—and all your sensitive information, including user ID, passwords, credit card numbers, etc.—basically belongs to the hacker. The intruder can mine your computer for valuable data, direct you to phony webpages that look like ones you frequent, and record your every keystroke.

"Another thing to remember," said Agent Peterson, "is that the connection between your laptop and the attacker's laptop runs both ways: while he's taking info from you, you may be unknowingly downloading viruses, worms, and other malware from him."

What can you do to protect yourself? Agent's Peterson's best advice is, don't connect to an unknown Wi-Fi network. But if you have to, there *are* some precautions you can take to decrease the threat:

- Make sure your laptop security is up to date, with current versions of your operating system, web browser, firewalls, and antivirus and anti-spyware software.
- Don't conduct financial transactions or use applications like e-mail and instant messaging.
- Change the default setting on your laptop so you have to manually select the Wi-Fi network you're connecting to.
- Turn off your laptop's Wi-Fi capabilities when you're not using them. 🖱️

Westminster Police Department

8200 Westminster Blvd.
Westminster, CA 92683
Emergencies Call 911

Business Line: 714-898-3315
Dispatch Ext: 326
Traffic Division Ext. 339
Records Bureau Ext. 371
Business Hours:
Sunday- Saturday
7:00a.m. - 7:00p.m.

Website:

[www.westminster-
ca.gov/depts/police](http://www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police)

Reminder:


Wireless telephone laws went into effect on July 1, 2008. All drivers using a handheld wireless telephone while operating a motor vehicle must use a hands-free device.

Drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from driving while using wireless telephones including a hands-free device.



Protecting Your Home

Prior to leaving home for that family vacation, the Westminster Police Department is asking that you take a few precautionary measures to ensure that your home remains free from crime. You can never be too careful, too prepared or too aware.


The key is to make it look like you never left. Keep shades and blinds in their normal positions. Stop mail and newspapers or ask a neighbor to pick them up every day. Put several household lights on timers so they turn on and off at appropriate times. Padlock all gates and make your backyard inaccessible. This makes it difficult getting into the backyard, but more importantly, hinders an intruder from carrying away items like televisions or computers. Make sure all your door and window locks are in working order and use them. Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway overnight to perpetuate the appearance of some being in the home. 

7 Tips on Preventing Identity Theft

In the course of the day, you do many activities that put your personal information at risk — from writing a check at the store to charging merchandise in person, over the phone or over the internet. You may not think twice about these transactions, but others might. **Identity theft** — when a perpetrator assumes someone's identity for personal or financial gain, like stealing a credit card to make financial transactions in the victim's name — **is the fastest-growing crime in America.**

According to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, there were almost 10 million cases of identity theft in 2004, which cost consumers \$5 billion. To avoid becoming a victim to this crime, try to follow these tips:

- Do not give out your personal information unless you initiate the contact or know the person or company with whom you are dealing. Also, never disclose personal information, such as a Social Security number or bank account number, in response to an email. Legitimate businesses will not ask you to do this.
- Do not disclose your credit card number to an online vendor unless it is encrypted and the site is secure. Look at the first part of the Web address on your browser. It should read "https://."
- Do not write your Social Security number or telephone number on checks or credit card receipts.
- Remove all documents with personal information from your hard drive before discarding your computer or sending it in for repair.
- Shred discarded documents, including preapproved credit card applications, bank statements, store receipts and utility bills. "Dumpster divers" can gain access to your personal information if such items are thrown in the trash.
- Cancel all credit cards that have not been used in the last six months. Open credit is a prime target for thieves.
- Order your credit report at least twice a year and report any mistakes to the credit reporting agency in writing.

If you are a victim of identity theft, contact your local police department as soon as possible. If your identity was stolen in one jurisdiction but used in another, you may have to report the crime in both jurisdictions. 

City of Westminster Department Directory

City Hall: 714-898-3311	Chamber of Commerce: 714-898-9648	West Justice Center: 714-896-7111
Family Resource Center: 714-903-1331	Consumer Affairs: 714-952-5210	Fair Housing Department: 714-569-0823
Code Enforcement: 714-893-3311	Health Department: 714-677-3600	Senior Center: 714-895-2878
Graffiti Hotline: 714-895-2876	Animal Control: 714-898-3315 Ext. 365	Vector Control: 714-971-2421

Social Networking

Courtesy of NetLingo

The importance of protecting children from the dangers of social networking should not be disregarded. Check out these statistics about social networking:

- MySpace deletes 25,000 profiles weekly of users who don't meet the site's 14-year-old minimum age requirement.
- 4,000,000 children are posting content to the Web every day.
- 15,000,000 youth use Instant Messaging.
- 9 out of 10 parents will never know that inappropriate contact has been made with their children.
- 14% of children have actually met face to face with a person they have met on the Internet.
- Most kids will not report inappropriate Internet contact to their parents because they fear losing Internet privileges.
- 61% of 13-17 yr olds have personal profiles on social networking sites.
- 45% of children with personal profiles have been asked for personal information from people they do not know.
- 48% of 16-17 yr olds report that their parents know "very little" or "nothing" about their online activities.

Luckily research shows that adults are catching up with kids in the use of text messaging. From 2006 through 2008, texting by adults ages 45 to 54 increased 130 percent. Half of texting adults say they started sending messages so they could communicate with their children. 📱

Concerts in the Park

On Thursday nights, the Civic Center Sunken Gardens is the place to be. Community members can enjoy a variety of free concerts held from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. and be entertained by swing, classical, rock-n-roll, country, and Westminster 's own Nicholson Pipes & Drums. Concertgoers may bring a picnic dinner or enjoy the delicious food items available through non-profit organizations.

July 10	The Answer	Classic Rock & Roll
July 17	Swing, Inc.	Swing Band
July 24	Grand Junction	Country
July 31	Nicholson Pipes & Drums	Bagpipe band w/ The Celtic Skye Dancers
August 7	The Surfing Safari	50's & 60's Dance Music
August 14	Gospel Night	Community Choir Group

Civic Center Sunken Gardens
8200 Westminster Blvd. • 714.895.2860

Reminder:

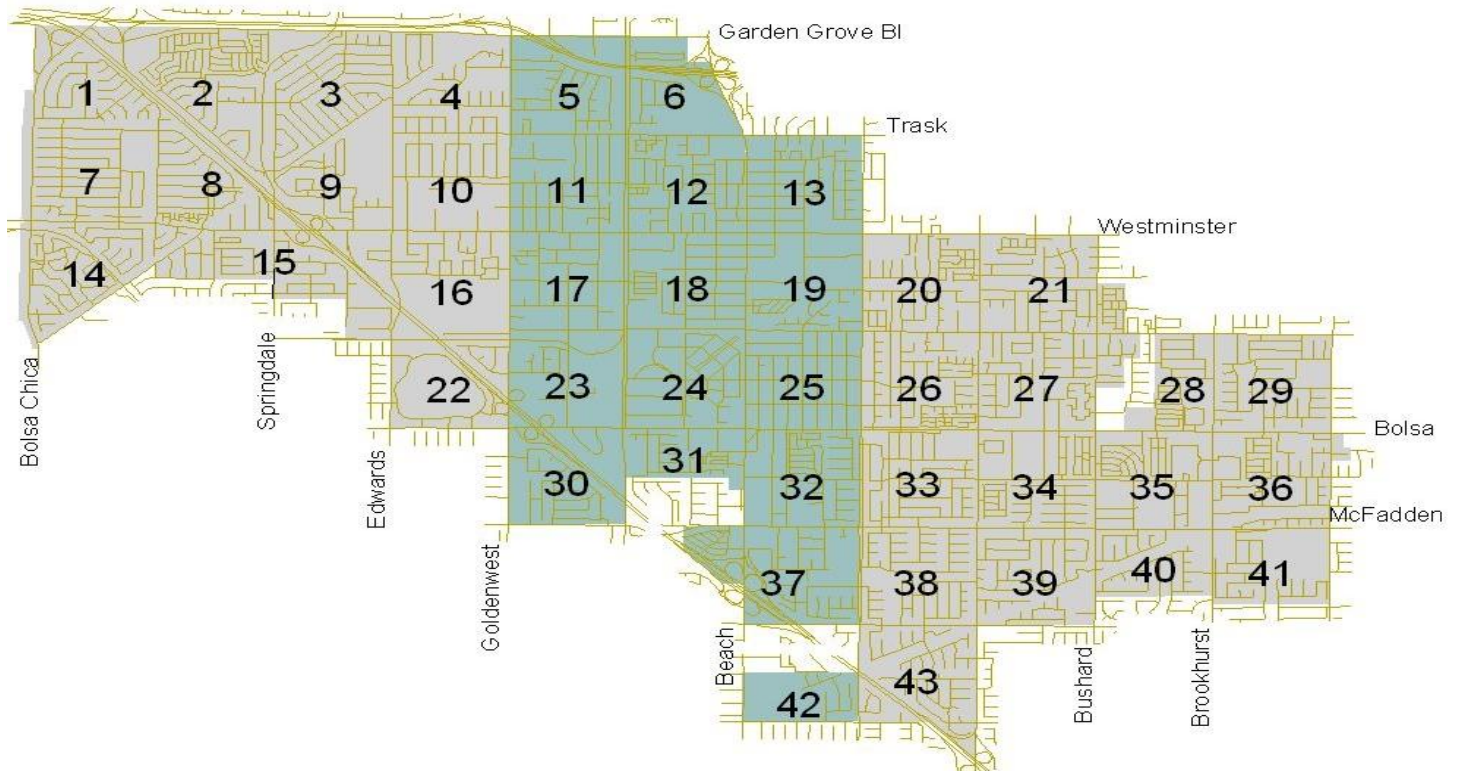
All issues of the Neighborhood Watch
Newsletter are available online at
www.westminster-ca.gov/depts/police



SIGN UP FOR FREE AMBER ALERTS ON YOUR CELL PHONE.

Go to wirelessameralerts.org. Sign up today. Then when an AMBER Alert is issued in the areas you've chosen, you'll receive a free text message. If you spot the vehicle, the suspect or the child described in the Alert, call 911. If your phone is wireless, you're no longer helpless.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES

A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR	A R E A	MAY	JUNE	YTD	LAST YEAR
1	0	0	2	4	16	0	0	2	2	31	0	1	2	0
2	0	0	4	4	17	1	1	3	0	32	0	0	0	1
3	0	0	4	1	18	0	0	0	4	33	2	1	7	6
4	0	0	2	7	19	0	0	3	3	34	0	1	4	4
5	0	0	3	5	20	5	1	14	9	35	0	1	6	5
6	0	0	4	2	21	0	4	17	6	36	1	1	8	5
7	0	0	4	1	22	0	0	0	1	37	0	0	1	3
8	0	1	2	3	23	0	0	0	0	38	2	1	4	5
9	1	0	5	4	24	0	0	0	0	39	0	0	0	3
10	1	1	5	3	25	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	1	4
11	0	0	4	4	26	0	2	5	5	41	0	2	3	2
12	0	0	2	9	27	1	0	7	6	42	0	0	0	2
13	1	2	4	6	28	0	3	8	2	43	1	0	3	3
14	0	0	4	1	29	1	0	4	7					
15	1	0	7	3	30	0	0	1	4					

	MAY	JUNE	YTD
TOTAL BURGLARIES	18	23	159

This newsletter is published bimonthly by the Administrative Services Bureau

